

What is claimed is:

1. A process for producing a glass molded article by press-molding a glass under heat in a non-oxidizing atmosphere,

the process comprising press-molding a glass containing at least one oxide selected from WO_3 , Nb_2O_5 or TiO_2 , to prepare a glass molded article, and then heat-treating the glass molded article in an oxidizing atmosphere.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass contains P_2O_5 .

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is carried out in a dry atmosphere.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass molded article is heat-treated at a temperature equivalent to, or lower than, a glass transition temperature of the glass.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass formed in the form of a preform is re-heated and press-molded.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the press-molding is precision press-molding by which a form of a molding surface of a mold is transferred to the glass to form the glass into a form of an end product.

7. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 540°C or lower and is press-molded.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass is

molded into a glass molded article made of an optical glass having a refractive index (nd) of at least 1.6 and an Abbe's number (vd) of 33 or less.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the glass molded article is formed from a glass containing, by mol%, 12 to 50 % of P_2O_5 , 2 to 45 % of WO_3 , 0 to 25 % of Nb_2O_5 , 0 to 22 % of TiO_2 , 0 to 30 % of Li_2O , 0 to 33 % of Na_2O , 0 to 25 % of K_2O , 0 to 23 % of B_2O_3 , 0 to 25 % of BaO and 0 to 20 % of ZnO and having a WO_3 and Nb_2O_5 total content of 45 mol% or less.

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the molded article is formed from the glass containing, by mol%, 2 to 30 % of Li_2O and 2 to 33 % of Na_2O .

11. The process of claim 9, wherein the molded article is formed from the glass containing, by mol%, 5 to 25 % of Nb_2O_5 , 1 to 22 % of TiO_2 , 0.5 to 23 % of B_2O_3 and 1 to 25 % of BaO , having an alkali metal oxide total content of 45 mol% or less and having an alkaline earth metal oxide and ZnO total content of 35 mol% or less.

12. The process of claim 1 or 9, wherein the glass contains 9 to 30 mol% of Li_2O .

13. An optical element produced by the process of claim 1.

14. A method of treating a glass, which comprises heat-treating a colored glass containing at least one oxide of WO_3 and Nb_2O_5 in an oxidizing dry atmosphere to decolor the glass.

15. A method of treating a glass, which comprises

heat-treating a glass containing at least one oxide selected from WO_3 , Nb_2O_5 or TiO_2 in a non-oxidizing atmosphere to color the glass.